

## CHAPTER 3.1.2.

### **MSX DISEASE [HAPLOSPORIDIOSIS]** (*Haplosporidium nelsoni*, [*H. costale*])

#### Article 3.1.2.1.

The present chapter refers only to MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] when caused by [the *disease agent* listed below in the susceptible host species indicated for each pathogen] Haplosporidium nelsoni.

For the purposes of this *Code*, [susceptible host species for *Haplosporidium costale* is: *Crassostrea virginica*, and] susceptible host species for *Haplosporidium nelsoni* are: *Crassostrea virginica* and *C. gigas*.

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Manual*.

#### Article 3.1.2.2.

##### **MSX disease [Haplosporidiosis] free country**

A country may be considered free from MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] when:

1. no *outbreak* caused by Haplosporidium nelsoni [the *disease agents* listed in Article 3.1.2.1] has occurred within its *territory* for at least the previous two years;
2. no Haplosporidium nelsoni [*disease agent* listed in Article 3.1.2.1] has been detected in any *mollusc* tested during operation of an official mollusc health *surveillance* scheme for a period of at least two years using the procedures described in the *Manual*.

#### Article 3.1.2.3.

##### **MSX disease [Haplosporidiosis] free zone**

A zone may be considered free from MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] when:

1. no *outbreak* caused by Haplosporidium nelsoni [the *disease agents* listed in Article 3.1.2.1] has occurred within its *territory* for at least the previous two years;
2. no Haplosporidium nelsoni [*disease agent* listed in Article 3.1.2.1] has been detected in any *mollusc* tested during operation of an official mollusc health *surveillance* scheme for a period of at least two years using the procedures described in the *Manual* (where a zone common to several countries is involved, these countries should implement harmonised and co-ordinated national disease *surveillance* programmes).

#### Article 3.1.2.4.

##### **MSX disease [Haplosporidiosis] free aquaculture establishment**

An MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] free *aquaculture establishment* may be located within an MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] free country or zone or within an MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] infected zone provided that:

1. it has been tested in an official mollusc health *surveillance* scheme for at least the previous two years using the procedures described in the *Manual*, without detection of Haplosporidium nelsoni [any of the *disease agents* listed in Article 3.1.2.1], and
2. it is supplied with water by a means that ensures removal or destruction of any Haplosporidium nelsoni [of the *disease agents* listed in Article 3.1.2.1] that may be present.

Article 3.1.2.5.

**Restoration of free status**

A country, a zone or an *aquaculture establishment* may be restored to MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] free status if no *Haplosporidium nelsoni* [disease agent listed in Article 3.1.2.1] has been detected for the last two years of a *surveillance* scheme using the procedures described in the *Manual*.

Article 3.1.2.6.

When importing live *molluscs* of all age groups of any susceptible host species for re-immersion, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that the consignment be accompanied by an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of an official mollusc health *surveillance* scheme comprising inspection and laboratory tests on susceptible host species conducted according to the procedures described in the *Manual*, whether or not the place of harvest of the consignment is a country officially declared MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] free.

If the place of harvest of the consignment is not a country officially declared MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] free, the certificate must state whether the place of harvest of the consignment is:

1. a zone officially declared MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] free, or
2. an *aquaculture establishment* officially declared MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] free.

The certificate shall be in accordance with Model Certificate No. 3 given in Part 6 of this *Code*.

Article 3.1.2.7.

*Importing countries* that are officially declared MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] free should only accept for importation live *molluscs* from *exporting countries* declared MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] free, or from clearly defined MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] free zones in countries not declared MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] free.

*Importing countries* not regarded as MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] free, but that have officially recognised MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] free zones, should only import *molluscs* into such zones from other countries or zones that are officially declared MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] free.

For *aquaculture establishments* officially declared MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] free that exist in infected zones, the *Competent Authority* of the country concerned should only allow importation of *molluscs* from officially declared MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] free countries, zones or *aquaculture establishments*.

Article 3.1.2.8.

*Competent Authorities* of *importing countries* should require:

for molluscs of commercial size destined for human consumption

the presentation of an *international aquatic animal health certificate* attesting that the *molluscs* listed as MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] susceptible host species have as their place of harvest a country, a zone or an *aquaculture establishment* free from MSX disease [haplosporidiosis].

The certificate shall be in accordance with Model Certificate No. 3.

This certificate may not be required for *molluscs* listed as susceptible host species originating from an infected zone if they are destined:

1. directly for human consumption without any re-immersion, or

2. for storage, during a short period before consumption, in a tank located in an infected zone. The tank should be isolated from the local environment (e.g. in quarantine) to avoid the potential introduction of different strains of the pathogen.

Article 3.1.2.9.

Certificates are optional for *molluscs* not listed as natural or experimental MSX disease [haplosporidiosis] susceptible host species, even if the *molluscs* originate from an infected country, zone or *aquaculture establishment*.